pending on vulgar or provincial names for the distinction of plants. A mistake of very injurious consequence might easily arise from the confusion of the English names of two trees so dissimilar in their qualities.

The class *Pentandria* and order *Trigynia*; the Linnæan order *Dumosæ* and the Jussieuean *Terebintaceæ* include the genus to which this shrub belongs. The generic character consists in *an inferior, five-parted calyx, a corolla of five petals, and a berry with one seed.* The Rhus vernix has its leaves *annual, pinnate, glabrous*; its *leafets oblong, entire, acuminate*; *its panicle lax, and its flowers diœcious.*

The trunk of the poison sumach is from one to five inches in diameter, branching at top, and covered with a pale greyish bark. The wood is light and brittle, and contains much pith. The ends of the young shoots and the petioles are usually of a fine red colour, which contributes much to the beauty of the shrub. The leaves are pinnate, the leafets oblong or oval, entire, or sometimes slightly sinuate, acuminate, smooth, paler underneath, nearly sessile, except the terminal one. The flowers, which appear in June, are very small, green, in loose axillary panicles. Where they appear not axillary, it is because the leat un-

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